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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject:

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Attorney General John Ashcroft, US DOJ
950 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I really think that our government went to extremes filing this lawsuit against Microsoft several years ago. Of course, Microsoft had a virtual lock on the operating systems software market. But this wasn't necessarily due to Microsoft's refusal to be fair; rather, this was due to the fact that they had the best, most reliable software of its kind that fostered an entire generation of computer users. This is not a monopoly. This is good business.

Microsoft prevented no one from competing with its software, as the U.S. Post Office does by preventing local mail delivery. However, since its software has been so flexible and intuitively easy to use, more and more consumers voluntarily chose it, and are now avid computer users.

All this having been said, I am pleased that there is a settlement in place. Even though this settlement goes beyond the scope of the lawsuit, even obligating Microsoft to divulge interoperability protocols and monitoring Microsoft with a new three-person committee, it has the advantage of ending the litigation. I am hopeful that this settlement will prevail and we can all put this episode behind us.

Sincerely,

Timothy R. Broering

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